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Agenda item 64 (b)

Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Albania, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mexico, Monaco, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of): draft resolution

International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 61/177 of 20 December 2006, by which it adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance,

Recalling its resolution 47/133 of 18 December 1992, by which it adopted the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances as a body of principles for all States,

Recalling also Human Rights Council resolution 7/12 of 27 March 2008, by which the Council extended the mandate of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances for a further period of three years,

Deeply concerned in particular by the increase in enforced or involuntary disappearances in various regions of the world, including arrest, detention and abduction, when these are part of or amount to enforced disappearances, and by the growing number of reports concerning harassment, ill-treatment and intimidation of witnesses of disappearances or relatives of persons who have disappeared,

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Acknowledging that acts of enforced disappearance are recognized by the Convention as crimes against humanity, in certain circumstances,

Recognizing that the entry into force of the Convention, as soon as possible, through its ratification by twenty States, will be a significant event,

1. *Welcomes* the adoption of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance on 20 December 2006, and looks forward to its entry into force at an early date;

2. *Also welcomes* the fact that since the signing ceremony for the Convention, on 6 February 2007, seventy-nine States have signed the Convention and five have ratified it, and calls upon States which have not done so yet to consider signing and ratifying the Convention as a matter of priority, as well as to consider the option provided for in articles 31 and 32 of the Convention regarding the Committee on Enforced Disappearances;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner of Human Rights to intensify efforts to assist States to become parties to the Convention, with a view to achieving universal adherence;

4. *Requests* United Nations agencies and organizations, and invites intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, to continue undertaking efforts to disseminate information on the Convention, to promote its understanding, to prepare for its entry into force and to assist States parties in implementing their obligations under this instrument;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its sixty-fourth session, a report on the status of the Convention and the implementation of the present resolution.